

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A polypeptide-dimer comprising two soluble gp130 molecules, wherein at least one of said soluble gp130 molecules is covalently linked to polyethylene glycol and wherein each of said soluble gp130 molecules consists of the extracellular domains D1-D3 of gp130 or mutants or fragments thereof that maintain the ability to inhibit the activity of the agonistic complex IL-6/sIL-6R.
2. (original) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 1, wherein each of said soluble gp130 molecules is covalently linked to polyethyleneglycol.
3. (currently amended) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 1-or 2, wherein at least one of said two soluble gp130 molecules comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 as depicted in Figure 2 or 3.
4. (currently amended) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 3, wherein both of said two soluble gp130 molecules comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 as depicted in Figure 2 or 3.
5. (currently amended) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the two soluble gp130 molecules are linked to each other through one or more disulfide bridges.
6. (currently amended) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 1~~claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the two soluble gp130 molecules are linked to each other through a forked polyethylene glycol.
7. (currently amended) The polypeptide-dimer of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the two soluble gp130 molecules are linked to each other through a flexible peptide linker.
8. (currently amended) A polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide-dimer of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ or a monomer of said dimer.

9. (currently amended) An expression vector comprising~~containing~~ a polynucleotide of claim 8.
10. (currently amended) A host cell comprising~~containing~~ an expression vector of claim 9.
11. (currently amended) A method of producing the polypeptide-dimer of claim 10~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, comprising culturing said host cell~~a host cell of claim 10~~, recovering the polypeptide-monomer or dimer from said host cell or the culture and PEGylating the monomers or dimers.
12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising~~containing~~ a polypeptide dimer of claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~.
13. (currently amended) Use of a polypeptide-dimer according to claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of bone resorption, hypercalcemia, cachexia, a tumor, an autoimmune disease, an inflammatory disease, a bacterial or viral infection.